

It is fitting and appropriate that the record show his outstanding qualifications for this high office. After all, the General Assembly of North Carolina is a most powerful body, and it alone makes the laws for our State.

And it is fitting and proper that we assume this responsibility with a solemn oath to bear true allegiance to the citizens of this State without regard to wealth, population, geography, national origin, color or creed but that we act with good judgment, goodwill and understanding in behalf of all our citizens.

The least of us and the greatest of us have an equal obligation; the Democrats and the Republicans must work side by side; the freshman member and the veteran legislator must share an equal concern for the welfare of our State.

Earl W. Vaughn of Rockingham County can and will lead us to great heights of legislative achievement in 1969.

His heritage is deep in the history of North Carolina.

Earl Vaughn was born and reared on a family farm in Rockingham County, the son of the late John H. and Lelia F. Vaughn.

The sun was shining bright on June 17, 1928, just over 40 years ago, as our next Speaker began the long road which brings him to the pinnacle of his many achievements.

After completing high school, he enrolled at Pfeiffer Junior College, and then fulfilled his military service for two years in the Pacific area.

In 1947 he enrolled at the University of North Carolina, receiving his A. B. degree in 1950 and his law degree in 1952.

Several of us today remember the happy days at Chapel Hill.

Life began to blossom during those years at the University, where he met a young lady who was attending the University, and who lived a short distance from Chapel Hill.

I had the happy privilege of seeing the romance blossom, and to share with Earl and Eloise the youthful adventure and excitement of the college scene.

I remember the wedding day on December 20, 1952, when Earl and Eloise were married in the little church north of Chapel Hill.

Before very long this young attorney and his bride moved to Draper, now known as Eden, in Rockingham County, where Earl began a successful career in law, and fulfilled abundantly the needs of community service.

Listen to some of his achievements:

He is a member of the Rockingham County Bar Association, the Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity, the North Carolina State Bar and the North Carolina Bar Association.

He is a member and past President of the Draper Rotary Club.

He is a member and past President of the Tri-City Rescue Squad.

He is a former solicitor of the Leaksville Recorder's Court.